Attorney for Plaintiffs Shoreside Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service and Metco, Inc.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, and NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, on its own behalf,

Plaintiffs,

and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, and SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, on its own behalf,

Intervening Plaintiffs,

and

METCO, INC.,

Intervening Plaintiff,) 3:98-cv-0009-TMB

vs.

NUGGET CONSTRUCTION, INC.; SPENCER ROCK PRODUCTS, INC.; UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY; and) ROBERT A. LAPORE,

Defendants.

SHORESIDE'S AND METCO'S) NOTICE OF FILING PROPOSED) ORDERS UPON MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION AND OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

COMES NOW Shoreside Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service ("Shoreside") and Metco, Inc. ("Metco"), by and through counsel, and file this NOTICE OF FILING PROPOSED ORDERS UPON MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION AND OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION. Three draft orders are attached.

DATED this 10th day of August, 2006 at Anchorage, Alaska.

THE LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN J. SHAMBUREK Attorney for Plaintiffs Shoreside Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service and Metco, Inc.

s/ Steven J. Shamburek
By:

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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The undersigned certifies that on the 10th day of August, 2006, a copy of the foregoing was served by the Electric Case Filing system.

s/ Steven J. Shamburek

Steven J. Shamburek

Attorney for Plaintiffs Shoreside Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service and Metco, Inc.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, and NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, on its own behalf,

Plaintiffs,

and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, and SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, on its own behalf,

Intervening Plaintiffs,

and

METCO, INC.,

Intervening Plaintiff,) 3:98-cv-0009-TMB

vs.

NUGGET CONSTRUCTION, INC.; SPENCER ROCK PRODUCTS, INC.; UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY; and) ROBERT A. LAPORE,

Defendants.

[PROPOSED]) ORDER UPON MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION FILED BY PLAINTIFFS REGARDING STATE LAW CLAIMS

The Court previously entered an Order Disposing of Parties' State Law Summary Judgment Motions (Docket No. 636). The Court considered (i) North Star's Motion for Reconsideration (Docket No. 646), (ii) Shoreside's and Metco's Motion for Reconsideration (Docket No. 649), and (iii) Nugget's and USF&G's Opposition (Docket No. 6) and the entire record in this case.

Shoreside provides evidence that it had entered into a written contract with Nugget. Nugget has not addressed the claim or evidence to date.

Judge Holland's discussion of the subterfuge and other activities in this case (Docket No. 310, passim) and the Ninth Circuit's discussion (Docket No. 383, p. 6) alone raise genuine issues of material fact regarding whether there was misrepresentation and non-disclosure including fraud actionable under the state law causes of action. Plaintiffs provide additional prima facie evidence of misrepresentation and non-disclosure including fraud.

Nugget was the general contractor and paymaster for the Homer Project and knew of the existence and support provided by each of the Plaintiffs. Under these circumstances, Nugget owed a duty of care to the Plaintiffs to act reasonably which it may have breached.

Whether these actions and this inaction warrant an award of punitive damages cannot be determined until all the evidence is heard by the trier of fact.

There are other genuine issues of material fact that

preclude entry of summary judgment on these causes of action.

The Court's previous Order is hereby vacated insofar as it granted summary judgment against (i) Shoreside's claim pursuant express written contract, (ii) the Plaintiffs' misrepresentation and non-disclosure claims including fraud, (iii) their negligence claims, and (iv) their claims for punitive damages. These matters may be raised again by any party at the conclusion of the presentation of evidence and revisited by the court at that time.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this day of , 2006

TIMOTHY M. BURGESS

U.S. District Court Judge

Attorney for Plaintiffs Shoreside Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service and Metco, Inc.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, and NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, on its own behalf,

Plaintiffs,

and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, and SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, on its own behalf,

Intervening Plaintiffs,

and

METCO, INC.,

Intervening Plaintiff,) 3:98-cv-0009-TMB

vs.

NUGGET CONSTRUCTION, INC.; SPENCER ROCK PRODUCTS, INC.; UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY; and) ROBERT A. LAPORE,

Defendants.

) [PROPOSED]) ORDER UPON MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION REGARDING BAD FAITH

The Court previously entered an Order Disposing Of Parties' Bad Faith Summary Judgment Motions (Docket No. 635). The Court considered (i) North Star's Motion for Reconsideration of Order Disposing of Parties' Bad Faith Summary Judgment Motions (Docket No. 647), (ii) Shoreside's and Metco's Motion for Reconsideration (Docket No. 648), and (iii) USF&G's Opposition To Reconsideration (Docket No. 6) and the entire record in this case.

In <u>K-W Industries v. National Surety Corp.</u>, 855 F.2d 640 (9^{th} Cir. 1988), the Ninth Circuit states:

. . . Appellant K-W Industries ("K-W") alleges that after the general contractor refused to pay for materials K-W delivered for use on the Fort Peck project, K-W made a claim against National on the bond for payment. When National allegedly refused to pay the claim, K-W sued National in the United States District Court for the District of Montana.

After K-W and National settled the federal court action, K-W instituted the present action against National in Montana state court. K-W alleges that National acted in bad faith in refusing to pay K-W's claim and in forcing it to bring the federal court action, and seeks compensatory and punitive damages under Montana's unfair insurance claims practices law."

<u>Id.</u> at 641. The Ninth Circuit recognizes that a state law bad faith cause of action is not pre-empted by the Miller Act. <u>U.S.</u>, <u>Walton Technology v. Westar Engineering</u>, 290 F.3d 1199, 1206 (9th Cir. 2002), also discusses some of the duties of a surety.

Alaska state law discussed in <u>Loyal Order of Moose, Lodge</u> 1392 v. International Fidelity Ins. Co., 797 P.2d 622 (Alaska 1990), <u>O'Connor v. Star Ins. Co.</u>, 83 P.3d 1, 5 (Alaska 2003) and other authority requires the surety to investigate and handle claims in a timely and meaningful manner and resolve any

conflicts in favor of the oblique.

In Alvarez v. Insurance Co. of North America, 667 F.Supp. 689, 696 (N.D. Cal. 1987), the district court discusses the bad faith cause of action in a Miller Act case. The court notes: "In this case, Nueva Castilla has brought a separate action for unfair insurance practices under state statute. In other words, rather than asking this court to expand the federal remedy, plaintiff brings an additional but separate state claim." Id. at 694 (Emphasis in original). The decision notes the applicability of 31 C.F.R. Section 223.18, among other provisions. Id. at 696. 31 C.F.R. Section 223.18 states in pertinent part: "Every company shall promptly honor its bonds naming the United States or one of its agencies or instrumentalities as obligee." This and other regulations establish some of the duties of a surety toward the beneficiaries.

The Prompt Pay Act amends and supplements the Miller Act.

<u>United States ex rel. Cal's A/C & Electric v. Famous Const. Corp.</u>

<u>& Capitol Indemnity Corp.</u>, 34 F.Supp.2d 1042, 1043-44 (W.D. La. 1999). The duty to pay promptly is referenced generally by the Corps in the letters to Nugget that were or should have been available to USF&G.

The United States government through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the owner of the Homer Project and charged with the administration of the contract. The Corps wrote to Nugget and reminded it to pay all suppliers and subcontractors and expressly noted the unpaid claims of the three claimants and others. In a long line of settled cases, the United States Supreme Court holds

that the interpretation of a provision by the agency charged with its administration is entitled to deference by the courts. <u>Udall v. Tallman</u>, 380 U.S. 1 (1965); <u>Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council</u>, 467 U.S. 837 (1984). The interpretation of the Corps/Nugget Contract by the Corps of Engineers is entitled to deference by this court. <u>USF&G</u> was aware of the Corps' interpretation of the contract and should have given it more deference.

There are genuine issues of material fact that preclude the grant of summary judgment for any party. Whether the Plaintiffs provided sufficient information in support of their claims and pursued the claims with USF&G are questions of fact. Whether USF&G timely considered the claims and meaningfully reviewed them are questions of fact. Whether USF&G meaningfully considered resolution of the claims at various times in the course of this litigation are questions of fact. Whether USF&G abandoned its duties to the Plaintiffs despite numerous facts and developments that should have compelled it to revisit its review of the claims are questions of fact. Whether US&F&G timely paid the claims in light of the information available to it under the circumstances are questions of fact. There are other facts that preclude entry of summary judgment.

The previous Order (Docket No. 635) is vacated as follows:

(i) USF&G's motion for summary judgment upon the plaintiffs' bad
faith claims (Docket No. 500) is DENIED; (ii) USF&G's motion for
summary judgment on the statute of limitations (Docket No. 497)
is DENIED; (iii) USF&G's motion for summary judgment on the

Plaintiffs' punitive damage claim (Docket No. 496) is DENIED; (iv) Plaintiff Shoreside's and Metco's motion for summary judgment or for determination of law and North Star's Joinder upon the plaintiffs' bad faith claims (Docket Nos. 509 and 519) against USF&G are DENIED. These matters may be raised again by any party at the conclusion of the presentation of evidence and revisited by the court at that time.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this day of , 2006

TIMOTINI M. DIDOTOS

TIMOTHY M. BURGESS U.S. District Court Judge

Attorney for Plaintiffs Shoreside Petroleum, Inc., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service and Metco, Inc.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, and NORTH STAR TERMINAL & STEVEDORE COMPANY, d/b/a Northern Stevedoring & Handling, on its own behalf,

Plaintiffs,

and

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for the use of SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, and SHORESIDE PETROLEUM, INC., d/b/a Marathon Fuel Service, on its own behalf,

Intervening Plaintiffs,

and

METCO, INC.,

Intervening Plaintiff,) 3:98-cv-0009-TMB

vs.

NUGGET CONSTRUCTION, INC.; SPENCER ROCK PRODUCTS, INC.; UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY; and) ROBERT A. LAPORE,

Defendants.

) [PROPOSED]) ORDER UPON MOTION FOR) RECONSIDERATION FILED BY NUGGET AND USF&G) REGARDING CONTRACT AND) EXPRESS CONTRACT BY **AGENCY**

The Court previously entered an Order Disposing of Parties' State Law Summary Judgment Motions (Docket No. 636). The Court considered (i) Nugget's and USF&G's Motion for Reconsideration of Order Disposing of Parties' Bad Faith Summary Judgment Motions (Docket No. 641), (ii) Shoreside's and Metco's Opposition To Motion For Reconsideration (Docket No. 655), and (iii) North Star's Opposition To Motion for Reconsideration (Docket No. 656) and the entire record in this case.

The Court reviewed Nugget's and USF&G's objections to the claims for express contract and express contract by agency. North Star, Shoreside and Metco discuss the applicable cases and note that there are genuine issues of material fact. The court reaffirms the prior disposition of these claims.

Nugget's and USF&G's motion for reconsideration on the issues of express contract and express contract by agency is DENIED. These matters may be raised again by any party at the conclusion of the presentation of evidence and revisited by the court at that time.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this day of , 2006

TIMOTHY M. BURGESS

U.S. District Court Judge